

IN THE CLAIMS:

1.-54. (Canceled)

55. (Previously Presented) A memory apparatus having a playback circuit removably connected with a digital signal source to store digital data received from said digital signal source and to reproduce the digital data stored therein independently of said digital signal source, comprising:

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a memory circuit electrically connected for storing said digital data from the digital signal source;

a playback circuit for reproducing said digital data stored in said memory circuit;

an inner battery; and

a battery switch,

wherein said battery switch enables to use power from said digital signal source having a higher operating voltage than that of said inner battery when said memory circuit stores said digital data in a condition of connecting to said digital signal source, and to use power from said inner battery when said playback circuit reproduces said digital data in a condition of being removed from said digital signal source.

56. (Previously Presented) A memory apparatus according to Claim 55, wherein said digital data includes audio data and an identification (ID) code

specifying a reproducing condition of said audio data, and said playback circuit reproduces said audio data following said reproducing condition.

57. (Currently Amended) A memory apparatus according to Claim 56, ~~55~~, wherein said ID code is inserted in the head of said digital data and is followed by said audio data, and said ID code and said audio data are integrally stored in said memory circuit.

58. (Previously Presented) A memory apparatus according to Claim 55, comprising a data transfer circuit to operate at an increased data transfer speed at said higher operating voltage from said digital signal source, in comparison to a data transfer speed at an operating voltage of said inner battery.

59. (Previously Presented) A memory apparatus according to Claim 55, wherein said inner battery is a rechargeable battery; and where said memory apparatus comprises a recharge circuit to use said higher operating voltage from said digital signal source to rapidly recharge said rechargeable battery during data transfer from said digital signal source to said memory apparatus.

60. (Previously Presented) A memory apparatus according to Claim 55, wherein said memory apparatus is a personal audio player for playing vended audio programs, and wherein said digital signal source is an audio program vending machine.

61. (New) A memory apparatus having a playback circuit removably connectable with a digital signal source to store digital data received from said digital signal source and to reproduce the digital data stored therein independently of said digital signal source, comprising:

a memory circuit electrically connected for storing said digital data from the digital signal source;

a playback circuit for reproducing said digital data stored in said memory circuit;

an inner battery; and

a power switch,

wherein said power switch enables the memory apparatus to use interconnected higher voltage power supplied from said digital signal source in comparison to a voltage level of said inner battery, during times when said memory circuit stores said digital data while connected said digital signal source, and to use power from said inner battery when said playback circuit reproduces said digital data when the memory apparatus is detached from said digital signal source.

62. (New) A memory apparatus according to Claim 61, wherein said digital data includes audio data and an identification (ID) code specifying a reproducing condition of said audio data, and said playback circuit reproduces said audio data following said reproducing condition.

63. (New) A memory apparatus according to Claim 62, wherein said ID code is inserted in the head of said digital data and is followed by said audio data, and said ID code and said audio data are integrally stored in said memory circuit.

64. (New) A memory apparatus according to Claim 61, comprising a data transfer circuit to operate at an increased data transfer speed at said higher voltage power supplied from said digital signal source, in comparison to a data transfer speed at an operating voltage of said inner battery.

65. (New) A memory apparatus according to Claim 61, wherein said inner battery is a rechargeable battery; and where said memory apparatus comprises a recharge circuit to use said higher voltage power supplied from said digital signal source to rapidly recharge said rechargeable battery during data transfer from said digital signal source to said memory apparatus.

66. (New) A memory apparatus according to Claim 61, wherein said memory apparatus is a personal audio player for playing vended audio programs, and wherein said digital signal source is an audio program vending machine.

67. (New) A system comprising:
a digital signal source; and
a plurality of memory apparatus, with each memory apparatus having a playback circuit removably connectable with said digital signal source to store digital data received from said digital signal source and to reproduce the digital data stored

therein independently of said digital signal source, and ones of said memory apparatus including:

a memory circuit electrically connected for storing said digital data from the digital signal source;

a playback circuit for reproducing said digital data stored in said memory circuit;

an inner battery; and

a power switch,

wherein said power switch enables the memory apparatus to use interconnected higher voltage power supplied from said digital signal source in comparison to a voltage level of said inner battery, during times when said memory circuit stores said digital data while connected said digital signal source, and to use power from said inner battery when said playback circuit reproduces said digital data when the memory apparatus is detached from said digital signal source.

68. (New) A system according to Claim 67, wherein said digital data includes audio data and an identification (ID) code specifying a reproducing condition of said audio data, and said playback circuit reproduces said audio data following said reproducing condition.

69. (New) A system according to Claim 68, wherein said ID code is inserted in the head of said digital data and is followed by said audio data, and said ID code and said audio data are integrally stored in said memory circuit.

70. (New) A system according to Claim 67, comprising a data transfer circuit to operate at an increased data transfer speed at said higher voltage power supplied from said digital signal source, in comparison to a data transfer speed at an operating voltage of said inner battery.

71. (New) A system according to Claim 67, wherein said inner battery is a rechargeable battery; and where said memory apparatus comprises a recharge circuit to use said higher voltage power supplied from said digital signal source to rapidly recharge said rechargeable battery during data transfer from said digital signal source to said memory apparatus.

72. (New) A system according to Claim 67, wherein said memory apparatus is a personal audio player for playing vended audio programs, and wherein said digital signal source is an audio program vending machine.
